IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-4. These sheets, which includes Figures 1-4, replace the original sheets including Figs 1-4.

Attachment: 4 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in this case and Claims 1-4 are amended by the present amendment only for clarity and to correct matters of form. Thus, no new matter is added.

The outstanding Office Action objected to the Drawings; rejected Claims 1, 2, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Sakaguchi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,621,478, herein "Sakaguchi"); and rejected Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sakaguchi in view of an assertion of Applicants' Admitted Prior Art.

Figures 1-4 are amended to address the stated objections. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Drawings be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the pending claims.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a flat display apparatus and includes:

> **a serial-parallel converter for sequentially and cyclically sampling the gradation data to convert the sampled gradation data into gradation data of a plurality of systems**; and
>
> **a plurality of horizontal driving circuits provided in correspondence to the gradation data of the plurality of systems** for setting gradations for pixels of corresponding columns of said display portion in correspondence to the gradation data of the corresponding plurality of systems, wherein
>
> each of said plurality of horizontal driving circuits has a plurality of sampling circuits for successively sampling the gradation data of the corresponding one of the plurality of systems to distribute the gradation data of the corresponding plurality of systems to the corresponding columns, and a digital to analog converter for setting levels of output signals to the corresponding columns based on the sampling results from said plurality of sampling circuits,
>
> **said serial-parallel converter outputs the gradation data of the plurality of systems to said corresponding plurality of horizontal driving circuits, respectively, at timing corresponding to the sequentially cyclic sampling**, and

said plurality of horizontal driving circuits sample the gradation data of the corresponding plurality of systems in said plurality of sampling circuits, respectively, at timing corresponding to sequentially cyclic sampling in said serial-parallel converter.

The outstanding Office Action asserts Sakaguchi as teaching every element of Claim 1.

Sakaguchi depicts, at Fig. 12, and describes, at column 1, a conventional liquid crystal display device in which a controller 904 that transmits digital display data D to source drivers 902. Each source driver 902 latches the incoming display data D and converts it from serial to parallel and from digital-to-analog data in synchronism with a signal supplied from the controller 904. The depiction at Fig. 1 and the description at column 5, lines 30-40, of Sakaguchi are of a similar system with a plurality of source drivers 2.

However, Sakaguchi does not teach or suggest at least "**a serial-parallel converter** for sequentially and cyclically sampling the gradation data **to convert the sampled gradation data into gradation data of a plurality of systems**; and a plurality of horizontal driving circuits provided in correspondence to the gradation data of the plurality of systems...said **serial-parallel converter outputs the gradation data of the plurality of systems to said corresponding plurality of horizontal driving circuits, respectively, at timing corresponding to the sequentially cyclic sampling**, and said **plurality of horizontal driving circuits sample the gradation data of the corresponding plurality of systems in said plurality of sampling circuits, respectively, at timing corresponding to sequentially cyclic sampling in said serial-parallel converter**," as recited by amended Claim 1. Instead, Sakaguchi describes a plurality of source drivers, **each with a serial to parallel converter**. Further, Sakaguchi describes a synchronized signal from the controller and, therefore, does not teach or suggest "said plurality of horizontal driving circuits sample the gradation data of

the corresponding plurality of systems... **respectively, at timing corresponding to sequentially cyclic sampling in said serial-parallel converter**," as recited by amended Claim 1.

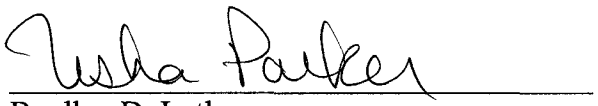
Because Sakaguchi does not teach or suggest at least the above-discussed features of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of Claim 1 and Claims 2 and 4, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

Claim 3 depends from Claim 1 and, therefore, patentably defines over Sakaguchi for at least the same reasons as Claim 1. Further, the assertion of Applicants' Admitted Prior Art does not cure all the deficiencies discussed for Sakaguchi with regard to Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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